

APPROVED: Meeting No. 38-95

ATTEST: *Paula J. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 19-95

April 3, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 3, 1995, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance: Acting City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: Worksession with Animal Matters
Board (AMB)

The Mayor and Council met with Chairperson Gayle Byrne and Board member John Maher. Member Phyllis Karsh is on travel. Also present: Police Chief Terry Treschuk and Police Captain Michael England. The following matters were discussed:

1. Overview of Animal Matters Board Mission - Ms. Byrne explained that the Board's purpose was to hear case appeals for first violations of the City's Animals Ordinance. The Board also conducts mediation sessions upon request, for neighborhood disputes involving animals, provides education and counseling on responsible pet ownership

and the maintenance and treatment of animals. The Board typically hears approximately 12-18 cases per year (three to date this year). Ms. Byrne said that more often than not the Board does not grant appeals.

Councilmember Krasnow said that she had received a call from a resident regarding off-leash areas; she asked whether the Board had given any consideration to this type of policy. Chief Treschuk explained that the issue was considered once, however he said that people did not want one park dedicated as an off-leash area. In addition, he noted that some citizen groups have demanded that the Police Department not question persons who show they have some control over their un-leashed dogs.

2. Off-Leash Certification - Ms. Byrne explained that the City had a program where one could take their dog for basic obedience tests. If the pet passed the tests, the owner would be enrolled in an off-leash program. Ms. Byrne said that as a judge of this program, she is concerned about the lack of people participating, even though owners are required to be re-certified every year. Ms. Byrne indicated that the Board would be advertising this certification program in Rockville Reports. Mayor Coyle suggested that the Board take advantage of the City's Cable station to advertise the program. Councilmember Marrinan suggested that the Board might consider using inserts in the license renewal process. Animal Review Official Joshua Rosen added the City's Animal Review Officials could help remind residents of the program. Ms. Byrne noted there was also a need for greater enforcement of the program by the City's Neighborhood Services Officers.

Meeting No. 19-95

3

April 3, 1995

In response to a question by Councilmember Dorsey regarding the Board's needs, Ms. Byrne noted the following:

- (a) The Board would like to get the current alternate vacancy filled.
- (b) The Board would like to educate residents on the City's laws regarding animals.
- (c) The Board would like to get the Neighborhood Services Officers and the Youth Explorers more involved in the off-leash recertification process.

Councilmember Krasnow suggested that the Board also consider using high school students for this, as part of their community service requirements.

Re: Worksession With Animal Review
Officials

The Mayor and Council met with Animal Review Officials Joshua Rosen, Connie Copperman and Jeffrey Wenner. Also present: Police Chief Terry Treschuk and Police Captain Michael England. The following matters were discussed:

1. Mission of the Animal Review Officials - Animal Review Officials conduct hearings on notices and petitions regarding violations of the Animal Ordinance. In addition, they consider recommendations on issues from the Animal Matters Board, conduct necessary investigations to render decisions on those matters, and impose administrative sanctions and requirements.

Mr. Wenner remarked that there were a lot of diverse groups who move into neighborhoods and are met with adversity; he would like to see more involvement with the

Meeting No. 19-95

4

April 3, 1995

Human Rights Commission on the use of community mediation and that more expedient action was needed on handling these cases. He also suggested that the Mayor and Council consider amending the Animal Ordinance regarding administrative fines.

Mr. Wenner noted that ARO case levels vary; Officials see cases every week and Officials take turns hearing cases each week. In 1994, the ARO heard 56 cases, and eight cases have been heard to date.

Ms. Copperman expressed support for the community mediation process; she said as an attorney with the Prince Georges States Attorney's Office, they have had great success with community mediation. Chief Treshuck remarked that communities in Cambridge, Massachusetts and San Mateo, California expressed an interest in learning about Rockville's Animal Review process.

Re: Worksession with Sister City
Corporation (SCC)

The Mayor and Council met with President Brigitta Mullican and Board members Donna Hill (Vice President), George Albrecht (Secretary), Stephen Fisher (Budget & Finance), Fred Beckner (Sports Coordinator), and Robert Nelson (Arts & Culture). Also in attendance was Public Information Officer Don Vandrey. The following topics were discussed:

1. Review of 1995 Programs and Exchanges - Ms. Mullican noted that this was the first opportunity the Board has had to meet with the Mayor and Council. She noted the correspondence from the Mayor and Council suggesting that the Board amend the

Meeting No. 19-95

5

April 3, 1995

Corporation's Bylaws to remove the requirement that a member of the Mayor and Council serve on the Board. Mayor Coyle said that the Board should let the City Council know if there are particular issues that the Sister City Corporation would like the Mayor and Council to take part in. Ms. Mullican noted the following events:

- (a) The Volksmarch on April 18, 1995. The Board will be evaluating this annual event to see if this is worth continuing since participation has decreased. In addition, the 2-day weekend event requires assistance from City workers and there is a good deal of competition from other groups in the area who sponsor walks and other events. Mr. Vandrey added that while the Volksmarch was a good way to promote something that was uniquely German, the date for the March has to be approved by the AVA and this often created problems.
- (b) On April 13-24, the Rockville girls basketball team visits Pinneberg. Negotiations are also underway to bring a Pinneberg baseball team to Rockville July 22 through August 3. Mr. Beckner distributed information about the baseball exchange program he proposed and he said the Sister City Corporation would pick up part of the costs involved.
- (c) In August, Wootton High School students will visit Pinneberg
- (d) September 25-October 15, Theodor-Heuss Schule students will visit Wootton High School.
- (e) The City's Oktoberfest celebration will be held September 30 - October 1.

2. Board of Directors Status Report - The SCC asked what the Corporation could do to enhance greater involvement of citizens and increase memberships. Councilmember Krasnow suggested getting the City's schools involved through a teen ambassador program and she said that the Corporation might pick up the expenses for a Rockville student to go abroad. Mr. Vandrey noted that most County schools were phasing out their German language programs. Mr. Fisher said that the Corporation would like to work with Montgomery College's German language program to encourage youth participation and interest in the Sister City program, and he suggested that cultural types of events (arts exchanges, theaters, etc.) were needed to encourage participation. Mayor Coyle said that the City's new band director, Vince Patterson, may have some additional ideas.

3. Pinneberg Delegation Visit - Mr. Vandrey noted that staff was preparing for a 6-10 member delegation who will be visiting Rockville in October. Mayor Coyle suggested that the Corporation check into having an exhibit from the Gritten Institute in Washington, D.C. come to the Rockville for the visit.

4. Additional Sister City Relationships - Mayor Coyle said that the City may want to think about establishing relationships with countries which reflect Rockville's changing diverse population. While the Mayor and Council were not pursuing the idea at this time, Mayor Coyle said that there may be some interest in the community to do this in the future. Mr. Beckner noted that Lorraine Schack (Rockville's Senior Citizens Social Coordinator) and he were involved in teaching Russian students English and he said he would like to promote

Meeting No. 19-95

7

April 3, 1995

this program. Mayor Coyle suggested that Mr. Beckner bring the students in for introduction at a Mayor and Council General Session. Ms. Mullican said that she will also try to interact with Frederick and Hagerstown's Sister Cities.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 1995.